
HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED TO ME?**CLASS COPY # _____**

Directions: Read the following accounts of two people with HIV virus and AIDS. Answer the questions following each account on the separate student activity guide.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson

One day in October of 1993, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the legendary Los Angeles Lakers basketball star, rested before a game in a Utah hotel room. The phone rang, and he heard his doctor say, "I need to see you in my office. Today." Magic, 32, had just been turned down for a life insurance policy after a physical examination and didn't know why. Flying back to L.A., he speculated that high blood pressure or a heart problem was the reason.

"Earvin, sit down. I have your test results," his doctor told him. "You're HIV positive. You have the AIDS virus." "Suddenly I felt sick," Magic recalls in *Sports Illustrated*. "I was numb, in shock, and, yes, I was scared." His doctor told him he didn't have AIDS yet, only the virus which would most likely lead to AIDS one day.

As Magic says, "To me, AIDS was someone else's disease. It was a disease for gays and drug users. Not for someone like me." He had contracted the virus through unprotected sexual activity. His first concerns were for his new wife Cookie, who was pregnant. Were she and the baby infected? (A later test showed they weren't.) "As for myself," says Magic, "I had only one thought--it's all over."

Magic soon learned that with proper medical treatment he could probably lead a normal life for several years. But in order to take care of himself he would have to retire from basketball. His announcement stunned the world. The star's enormous popularity was, to some extent, responsible for the U.S.A.'s renewed love affair with pro basketball.

Because of his leadership, the Lakers won the NBA championship five out of 12 years and Magic was voted the NBA's Most Valuable Player in 1987, 1989, and 1990. He played on the 1992 Olympic Basketball "Dream Team" and won a Gold Medal. But with success came complex choices off the court. As a world famous athlete, Magic admits he was sexually promiscuous. Now he must deal with the consequences of his behavior. Since there is no cure for the disease at this point, everyone who has full-blown AIDS dies.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED TO ME?**CLASS COPY # _____****KRISTA BLAKE**

It wasn't love at first sight. Krista met Don one spring weekend at a picnic. She was dating his brother at the time. "Don was nice and cute, but I didn't think about it," Krista said. Krista broke up with Don's brother and a month later met Don on a walk through the park near her home.

"We started talking and looking for something to do--like friends," Krista says. After that night they went out together regularly and their feelings for each other grew quickly. Every day after school, Krista dropped by the auto body shop where he worked to see him and talk. They spent weekends together eating out, listening to music and going to movies.

"He told me he loved me," she says. When he asked her to have sex with him, she asked if there was any chance he could be infected with HIV. Krista was concerned because Don is a hemophiliac. "No way, I'm not gay," was his response.

After a few months, their relationship fizzled. At 19, Krista was infected with HIV. Krista found out she was HIV positive during her first semester at college. Having a routine blood test revealed the virus.

"I was stunned when I found out," she said. "I was totally out of it, deathly afraid of being alone. I thought I'd die any minute. I wouldn't go to school, go out of the house, or talk on the phone."

It took time for the news to sink in. But Krista's family and close friends offered unconditional support. Her positive outlook helped her come to terms with her condition.

"Teens need to be aware they risk contracting sexually transmitted diseases any time they have intercourse," she said. "I learned the hard way that you can't take someone else's word about not being infected with HIV. I asked him, he knew he was infected and he lied to me. He didn't even try to protect me from it."

Soon after this interview, Krista died of AIDS.